

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California's Unruh Civil Rights Act and Disabled Persons Act all require accessibility to public accommodations for people with disabilities.



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Disability Access Law in California



DISABILITY ACCESS LAW IN CALIFORNIA

The federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California's Unruh Civil Rights Act and Disabled Persons Act all require accessibility to public accommodations for people with disabilities. Public accommodations include businesses that provide goods and services to the public, such as restaurants, shopping centers, hotels, and many others.

Private lawsuits brought against noncompliant businesses and property owners are one of the primary ways these laws are enforced. Both the landlord/owner of a property and the business/tenant are responsible for disability access. Complying with federal and state accessibility law will ensure that disabled people can patronize your business and help avoid potential lawsuits.

DID YOU KNOW...

- ▶ The laws on disability access are complex. Getting your business inspected by a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) can help you understand whether your business or property complies with disability access standards and how to go about addressing any issues.
- ▶ As of July 1, 2013, all commercial leases and rental agreements must state whether the property has undergone a CASp inspection.
- ▶ If a lawsuit has been filed under state or federal disability access laws, you may need to consult an attorney. Due to recent legislation, SB 1608 (Corbett, 2008) and SB 1186 (Steinberg & Dutton, 2012), you might be eligible for certain procedural benefits or reduced statutory damages.

ONLINE RESOURCES

The **California Department of Rehabilitation** offers BOOST YOUR BUSINESS, a free 14-part web series on disability access compliance for businesses. YOUTUBE.COM/USER/DORCALIFORNIA

The **US Department of Justice** provides helpful information, including federal tax credits available to business and an ADA UPDATE, a primer for small businesses. They also offer REACHING OUT TO CUSTOMERS WITH DISABILITIES, a 10-lesson online course for disability access compliance requirements. WWW.ADA.GOV/REGS2010/SMALLBUSINESS/SMALLBUSPRIMER2010.HTM
WWW.ADA.GOV/BUSINESS.HTM
WWW.ADA.GOV/REACHINGOUT/INTRO1.HTM

The **California Commission on Disability Access** offers information on disability access compliance requirements, as well. This includes helpful resources, and the TOP 10 DEMAND LETTERS AND CLAIMS, a list of the most common types of disability access claims. WWW.CCDA.CA.GOV

The **Division of the State Architect** provides information on California building codes and the Certified Access Specialist program (CASp). WWW.DGS.CA.GOV/DSA

TELEPHONE RESOURCES

Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers – funded by the US Department of Education, these centers provide technical assistance on the ADA:

Pacific Coast Center

TEL/TTY800.949.4232
Technical Assistance is available from the Pacific ADA Center Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5 pm PST. All calls are confidential.

ADA Information Line – US Department of Justice
TEL.....800.514.0301
ADA Specialists are available to provide ADA information and answers to technical questions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6:30 am - 2:30 pm or on Thursday from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm PST. Calls are confidential.

California Commission on Disability Access

TEL.....916.319.9974
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